

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **REP. URBAN TO SPEAK AT ANIMAL SANCTUARY GROUNDBREAKING**



State Rep. Diana Urban, R-North Stonington, will participate in a groundbreaking for a revolutionary animal sanctuary and resource center in Ashford, CT on Wednesday, August, 23. The Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary facility will serve Connecticut and all New England states.

The resource center will provide low cost, life-saving programs to animals and include a hands-on classroom for visiting school children, animal welfare groups, and various civic organizations. The sanctuary will care for cats, dogs, and small domestic animals such as rodents, guinea pigs, rabbits and domestic caged birds. Adoption services will be offered. Animals requiring special care due to injury or abuse will be rehabilitated, not destroyed. Animals too damaged from past abuse and unadoptable will live permanently at the facility.

The facility plans to host such events as high-volume feral cat “Spay Days,” holding low-cost training classes for dogs with behavioral problems, or leading a humane education program for school children. Funds and scholarships will provide the opportunity for hosting workshops, “adoption days,” and other programming to teach Connecticut residents how they can make a difference in their community. In addition, the versatile 600-person capacity facility will also serve as a meeting space for community organizations, conferences and weddings.

“I am so pleased to be at this ground breaking as I have always been concerned about how we treat our animal companions,” said Rep. Urban, who is one of the Legislature’s leading animal advocates. “From issues as diverse as Humane Education to the Cycle of Violence that begins with animal abuse, I appreciate the opportunity to partner with animal advocates to make positive changes through legislation. Kudos to Susan Linker and all those who worked so hard to make this facility a reality.”